

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7111

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 0293

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE FROM AMBASSADOR MARSHALL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, SO, KE, US, UR

SUBJECT: MILITARY BASE AT CHISIMAIO, SOMALIA

1. WHILE WAITING FOR U.S. RESPONSE ON ARMS REQUEST, KENYANS LEARNED FIRST OF OUR INTELLIGENCE ON BERBERA THAT SOVIETS HAVE ESTABLISHED BASE, AND NOW --THROUGH PENTAGON RELEASE--H THAT A BASE EXISTS AT CHISIMAIO. NOT ONLY HAS LOCAL PAPER, THE NATION, GIVEN THIS THREATENING NEWS FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE, BUT MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS BEEN PESTERED WITH ENQUIRIES.

2. WHILE I HAVE READ IN RECENT CLASSIFIED REPORTS THAT CHISIMAIO BASE BELIEVED TO EXIST, I HAVE NO CONFIRMATION THIS INFORMATION. I WOULD THEREFORE GREATLY APPRECIATE AND HEREWITH REQUEST BRIEFING BY CABLE OF EXACTLY WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT CHISIMAIO. DO WE HAVE PICTURES, AS IN CASE OF BERBERA? IF SO, ARE PICTURES GOING TO BE MADE PUBLIC?

3. I WOULD LIKE TO PASS AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE TO GOK EITHER TO CONFIRM THEIR FEARS OR QUIET THEM. IN EITHER CASE IT IS IN OUR BEST INTEREST TO DO SO, ALTHOUGH IF INDEED SOVIETS ARE ESTABLISHING BASE ONLY ONE HUNDRED

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MILES FROM KENYAN BORDER KENYAN FEVER TO OBTAIN U.S. ARMS

WILL RISE.
MARSHALL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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